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MINNESOTA POLL

Minnesotans Frown on Government's Giving Anti-Cigarette Advice

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Although two out of every three Minnesotans believe cigarette smoking has been proved to be a health hazard, state residents tend to oppose the idea of having the federal government start a campaign against smoking cigarettes.

Such an attitude toward smoking is indicated in a statewide survey by the Minneapolis Tribune's Minnesota Poll.

One-half of the people interviewed (50 per cent) think the federal government should not try to discourage people from smoking cigarettes, as is being done in Great Britain. Forty-four per cent say that it should be undertaken.

The remaining 6 per cent are noncommittal.

The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and other organizations have been actively publicizing the dangers they say are associated with the smoking of cigarettes.

TAKING AN opposing view is the tobacco industry, which denies any cause-and-effect relationship has been established between cigarette smoking and lung cancer or heart disease.

To learn how Minnesota adults, aged 21 and over, look at the subject, poll field reporters asked a balanced sampling of residents.

"From what you have heard or read, do you believe that cigarette smoking has or has not been proved to be a health hazard?"

About two out of every five persons questioned are cigarette smokers; the remainder are not. The views of both groups:

	All adults	Cigarette smokers	Non-smokers
Has been proved to be a health hazard	67%	54%	76%
Has not been proved	29	42	20
No opinion	4	4	4
	100%	100%	100%

The main ways cigarette smoking is a health hazard, in the opinion of people having that viewpoint, are (1) It leads to throat or lung cancer; (2) smoking is harmful to lungs and throat, causing respiratory troubles; (3) smoking is hard on the heart, raises blood pressure, and leads to heart disease.

Minnesotans also were asked:

"In Great Britain, the government is carrying on a campaign to discourage people from smoking cigarettes. Do you think our federal government should or should not start the same kind of campaign in this country?"

The answers:

	All adults	Cigarette smokers	Non-smokers
Gov't. should start campaign	44%	37%	49%
Should not	50	60	44
Other answers	1	*	2
No opinion	5	3	5
	100%	100%	100%

*(Less than 1 per cent.)

People object to a government drive against smoking mainly on the grounds that "the individual should decide for himself whether he will smoke" or that "people would smoke anyway, in spite of what the government might say."

Six out of 10 Minnesota adults under 40 years of age (61 per cent) oppose having the government give advice on smoking.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/lyyk0000